



# Smart Business Leaders Are . . .



## Greening the Environment

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## Growing the Economy

Call: 1-888-EPA-7341

## **a guide to Assistance Programs available through EPA's New England Office**

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At EPA's New England Office, we recognize that businesses and industries are key players not only for New England's economy, but for her environment as well. EPA has reinvented itself to better help the business community improve environmental performance by offering a menu of bold, new voluntary programs. We now have the nation's largest office dedicated solely to helping businesses take care of the environment. We seek to tap corporate innovations and professional knowledge to bring about even greater environmental results.

EPA's New England Office reaches out to businesses with user-friendly assistance programs designed with one thing in mind: helping New England businesses improve their environmental performance while preserving their financial health—or to put it more simply, "Get the Green Back."

These programs provide businesses with information on and access to compliance and pollution prevention assistance, regulatory flexibility, public recognition, green technologies, environmental management systems, and our small business ombudsman. This brochure provides a sampling of our innovative assistance programs.

## Green Technology

### The **Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT)**

capitalizes on the region's rich environmental industry, promoting innovative technologies that help protect public health and the environment while growing the regional economy. CEIT is a catalyst for bringing new environmental technologies to the marketplace by providing the following: improved access to state and federal programs and funding; opportunities for technologists to demonstrate the potential of their product; and expanded access to investors and other sources of capital.

## Recognition

A bold new regional recognition program open to any New England business, municipality, or organized group, **Partners for Change** suggests ways to improve environmental performance and provides resources, information, support, and encouragement. To be recognized as a Partner, develop environmental goals for your organization and share them with employees, undertake at least one activity that results in a substantial and permanent environmental benefit, and fill out the simple application to tell us what you did. If you meet the requirements, EPA will recognize you with a window decal, a certificate, the right to market yourself as a Partner for Change, and more.

## Small Business Assistance

## Regulatory Flexibility

**Project XL** encourages corporate ingenuity to test innovative, real-world strategies that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than traditional regulatory approaches. We encourage companies to find a better way to get the job done than the regulations require, and in return, EPA will rewrite the rule book. The goal is to accelerate environmental and economic progress while improving the regulatory system.

The **Small Business Ombudsman** serves as a liaison between small businesses and EPA's New England Office, facilitating communications between the small business community and the agency. This office provides regulatory/technical assistance information, technical literature, and speakers, interfaces with small business trade associations, and assists small businesses during enforcement actions.

## Management Systems

**StarTrack** encourages companies to undertake environmental management system and compliance audits, then be certified by an independent third party— a trusted source other than the government or the company itself. StarTrack participants qualify for facilitated access to EPA's assistance programs, fewer inspections, and enforcement discretion; they may also be eligible for streamlined permitting and reporting requirements, if they certify that their performance goes beyond compliance.

## Technical Assistance

**The New England Environmental Assistance Team (NEEATeam)** stands ready to help businesses incorporate pollution prevention technologies into their compliance strategies. We have targeted our initial efforts in the following sectors: printing, metal plating / finishing, computers/electronics, wood product coating, auto repair/finishing, municipalities, and technical, trade, and vocational schools.

"We can continue to put the public health first, but at the same time, under current law, we can operate in more flexible, common sense, integrated and less burdensome ways."

—Carol Browner, EPA Administrator

## Background

During the past 25 years, EPA's New England Office has attained environmental improvements by creating and enforcing regulations, bringing some of the most recalcitrant of companies into compliance with the threat of enforcement. We recognize that the majority of businesses are law-abiding and work hard to follow the rules and stay profitable. And we recognize that enforcement must continue to be an important part of our work, to insure a level playing field for all businesses. The programs outlined in this brochure represent important new ways we can assure compliance.

## Tips Hotline

Complying with environmental laws isn't always easy, but our assistance programs make it possible for New England businesses to "Get the Green Back." While EPA has adopted a variety of new tools to assist responsible businesses, we haven't forgotten those who break the law. On behalf of the overwhelming number of companies who have seen the light, we'll continue to pursue those who dare to compromise the quality of New England's environment. Tell us who they are. All calls are confidential, and anonymous tips are welcome.

Call 1-888-EPA-TIPS.

**Call 1-888-EPA-7341**

**visit our website:**

**<http://www.epa.gov/region01>**